

Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

January 2021 – Tevet/Sh’vat 5781 | Issue 11 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Assistance and Events

General Assistance



Mitch Cohen, President – mitchell@familycohen.com

Cantor David Reinwald – dreinwald@tbsoc.com

Ruth Irving, Executive Director – rirving@tbsoc.com

Services | Shabbat Evening Services will be offered online through Livestream and Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m.

Torah Study | Virtually held each Saturday. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for Zoom Link

1/8 | 7:00 p.m. – Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Donnell and Cantor Reinwald

1/13 | 7:30 p.m. – **Jewish Drama** – Cantor Reinwald is excited to bring back his Jewish Drama program, reading and discussing plays with Jewish content. Join us for the first session to discuss *The Revisionist* by actor/playwright Jesse Eisenberg. See <https://tbsoc.com/> for registration.

1/20 | Noon – Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Donnell. Part 2 of “Sexy Scriptures”

1/22 | 7:00 p.m. – Sisterhood Shabbat Service

Worship at TBS

Cantor David Reinwald

The end of the year kept us busy on the worship front, and we thank all who joined us this season for our online Hanukkah events. This year has continually been an adventure, and while we so would have liked to have gathered in person, we are glad the technology exists to allow us to gather online in safe ways. Here's to hopes that next year, we will be happily gathered again in the Orange Circle, with plenty of sufganiyot to eat!

We have been so happy to have Rabbi Donnell joining us monthly for services and for Torah Study. Rabbi Donnell will join me again on January 8th, so mark your calendars, and please join us then. Torah Study will also be led by Rabbi Donnell monthly, on the third Shabbat of each month, with the next session on Sat., Jan. 16 at 9:00 a.m. We will be joining Rabbi Donnell's Portland congregation (Cong. Beth Israel) for those sessions, so please just keep an eye on your Shavu'on email for information on how to access these special Torah Study sessions.

Finally, Jan. 22nd brings us our annual Sisterhood Shabbat, which will happen online this year, with plenty of participation from our Sisterhood members, leading us from their homes. Join us that evening for this special service.

Wishing all a happy and healthy 2021 ahead!

President's Message

Mitch Cohen, TBS President

I'm writing to you in 2020, knowing that you'll read this in 2021. This new year holds the promise of resuming all the activities I took for granted prior to February 2020: hugs, handshakes, kisses, high-fives. I'm looking forward to all of them in the not-to-distant future. And despite the negativity that will be associated with 2020, there was a lot of good that happened, thanks to the incredible Temple Beth Sholom community.

Our amazing Membership Committee held our first Shabbat parade on July 24th. The feedback was so overwhelmingly positive, that we held them every two weeks through December 4th. We also enjoyed "Havdalah and Treats" on October 31st, hosted by the Families with Young Children Committee. Throughout the spring, summer, fall, and into winter, Cantor Reinwald conducted Shabbat and Havdalah, all virtually. Norm Rosen continues to organize Saturday morning Torah study and Rabbi Emeritus Shelton Donnell helps lead from Portland. And while we would prefer to be together in person, participating via Zoom couldn't be easier.



One of the things I love most about TBS is that anyone with an idea knows they are part of an eager community, interested in participating. As 2020 ended, our community practiced acts of loving kindness as we worked to repair the world, not once, but many times. This was most apparent when our Social Action committee wanted to do something for Casa Teresa. Led by Steffanie Belasco, a gift registry was created. Wonderful people made small and large donations that were sorted and donated on November 24th. Monica Engel's passion to help those in need resulted in our annual "Giving Tree." My pickup truck was again needed on December 17th as we delivered all the gifts (including a brand-new ping pong table) to the Orange County Rescue Mission. Finally, Cheryl Escoe and Hollis O'Brien gathered volunteers to cook and prepare food for Mary's Kitchen on December 25th.

In 2021, I look forward to seeing you, hopefully in person, and building on the good our TBS community continues to do, especially during times of greatest need.

Brotherhood | Community – Fellowship – Action – Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Brotherhood had an interesting December, not to mention an interesting 2020. I am sure that also applies to most of us. We started off excited to be part of the Hanukkah Shopping Extravaganza (an exaggeration perhaps) on December 4th. Then the Temple decided to be cautious and cancel the event and so we cancelled our plans as well. That was to be part of the last of the successful and unique Shabbat Parades our creative Membership Committee came up with this year.

Not to be daunted, the Brotherhood had decided to hold its 25th annual Pancake Breakfast on December 25th again. This time it was a takeout only with our congregants driving through in their cars and being handed a box with their pre-ordered breakfast inside. Maybe we should have been daunted because the Covid 19 pandemic started surging in early December and kept growing in Orange County. Although takeout food was allowed by the state, we decide it could be too dangerous for our Brotherhood members to be in the kitchen cooking. So that was cancelled. (cont. on page 3)

That left our annual raffle that always accompanies the Pancake Breakfast. The problem presented itself that we always mailed out raffle ticket books and they would need to be mailed back filled out with the buyer's name and information on the ticket to be drawn. If we did that, we would need to have our members separate the tickets and put them into a bowl per usual. Even that could be a problem from the pandemic point of view.

Therefore, we decided to do everything virtually including the tickets. All ticket buyers were assigned numbers corresponding to the number of tickets they purchased. We used a computer to randomly mix and pick winning numbers for the prizes. Everyone would be entered into the grand drawing of a 50-inch Samsung Television that had been donated to the Brotherhood. That ensured all proceeds would go to Brotherhood.

We were all very gratified to see the tremendous support we got for the raffle from our TBS congregants. Although we are not a money raising organization, we do raise money during the year to be able to help support our Preschool, Hebrew/Religious school and to provide textbook scholarships to our graduating high school seniors as well as support any other youth programs such as the Purim Carnival each year.

Thank you all for your support. TBS Brotherhood wishes all of you a happy, successful, and above all else, a healthy 2021.

Remember, if you are a man, if you know a man, or if you live with a man, please join the Brotherhood and be part of a worthwhile cause. You can always contact me at sylvan@swartzcre.com if you aren't sure how to join.



Sisterhood

Brenda Beck, Sisterhood President

Plans are currently underway for our annual Sisterhood Shabbat Service on Friday, January 22. While the service this year will be online, the Sisterhood Shabbat service is a much anticipated and inspiring event with readings specially prepared and selected for this service. Also, as in previous years, the Sisterhood Shabbat will feature the participation of many of our Sisterhood members. Please watch your e-mail for more details regarding this special service.

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



As I write these words, 2020 is drawing to a close. It has been quite the experience. The preschool, while changed, is flourishing. It is rich with learning opportunities, innovative programming, and plans for tomorrow.

In spite of the limitations imposed on us due to COVID, the preschool has forged ahead. The parents and preschool community created a small fundraising opportunity and we made over \$800. We also received a grant through Orange County for \$14,700!! We are in the process of fixing our infant playground by installing artificial turf and a new fence and we are resubmitting our application to increase capacity now that our fire system is completely overhauled. Adversity often brings out the best in people and if, during the darkest of times, we can create light, then imagine the opportunities for the incoming year.

Wishing all in our temple community a safe, healthy, and joyous 2021.

Religious School

Johannah Sohn, Ed.D, Director of Youth Education

We have been having such a wonderful time in our Religious School classes! For Chanukah, we built awesome chanukiot with mirrors and protractors. It was unlike anything we have ever done before for Chanukah. Perhaps you or someone you know would like to join us for a Sunday morning class and experience our unique approach to Jewish education? Email Johannah Sohn, jsohn@tbsoc.com to set up a time to join us.

Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens

Monica Engel, Social Action Member

With Covid confining us to our homes, **Sarah Charles** found it difficult to find something meaningful that was not "hands on" for her Bat Mitzvah Community Service project. She noted that TBS was supporting Casa Teresa, home for 20 moms-to-be and 3 moms and their babies. Inspiration kicked in and Sarah contacted the virtual guests at her Bat Mitzvah and asked them to send donations to Casa Teresa. The moms and staff were so grateful for the thoughtful and much needed significant amount of the donations.

Hannah Kotkin is another young, mindful member of TBS who had to work around Covid. Hannah's passion is theater. She attends OC School of the Arts in the Acting Conservatory which keeps her busy. Of course, she has academic classes, but she is also in rehearsals for a virtual short film entitled *Code Pine*, about nurses working in a delivery room. She just starred in a short film via Zoom. She is on the board of the Interfaith Council of Orange County and hopes to return to madrichim on Sundays at TBS when she completes rehearsal. Hannah is also hoping to visit Poland and Israel this summer with Ramah for Seminar. We wish Hannah safe and enjoyable travels.



Devyn and Matthew Kontur are not strangers to TBS. They are no longer teenagers, but they blossomed into theatrics when Devyn was 3 and Matthew was 5, beginning with tap dancing. But the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Both parents, Bill and Lynn have beautiful voices and introduced the kids to musical theater at a young age. Devyn had her TBS debut when she was in a kindergarten program and participated in many Purim shpiels. Matthew's love for musical theater brought him to his Bar Mitzvah project. He organized a few musical friends and they performed at Bubbe and Zayde's Place and Heritage Point as the Mitzvah Tones. Matthew is currently attending Shenandoah University to obtain his BFA in Musical Theater and Devyn just graduated with a BFA in Musical Theater. She is currently teaching private voice lessons over

Zoom and is working with Top Hat 8 Repertory in Tustin. I look forward to their gracing us with their amazing talent at our next fundraiser - hint, hint.

If you know of a TBS youth who practices *tikkun olam*, community service, or is simply on an uplifting path, please contact Monica at sovtal1@gmail.com to highlight them in this section.

Committee Updates

Interim Rabbi Search Committee

Rachel Benson, IRSC Chair

While we have no “new” news to report, we want the congregation to know that we are continuing to work diligently through the process of reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates, and ultimately finding our Temple an Interim Rabbi to start in July 2021.

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

This newsletter is made possible entirely from donations and sponsorships. If you would like to contribute toward its continued development and distribution, please contact Ruth Aptaker (ruth.aptaker@gmail.com) or the TBS office.



We are also grateful for the generous donations of Patti Widdicombe, the Weissberg Family, the Cohen Family, the Engel Family, Sandy Fainberg, and our TBS Brotherhood.

Social Action

Committee Update

Paula Pitluk, Social Action Chair

Our Social Action Committee used the final meeting of the year to reflect on accomplishments and to begin plans for the coming year. In addition to monthly meals for Casa Teresa residents and a successful Mom and Baby Gift Drive spearheaded by Steffanie Belasco, Monica Engel organized and implemented a successful “Giving Tree” to benefit the residents of Orange County Rescue Mission. Also, under the direction of Hollis O’Brien, Social Action provided a Christmas Day lunch at Mary’s Kitchen.

In conjunction with Adult Education, an informative interactive presentation was held with Karen Kimodo of Orange County Rescue Mission and on March 9th, a representative from Illumination Foundation will discuss transitional and supportive housing. Watch your email and <https://tbsoc.com/> for further information.

Despite all our accomplishments in 2020, there are continuing needs in and around our community. The next Social Action meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you would like to join in, please send your name and email address to Paula Pitluk (pkpteach@gmail.com).

Mission Accomplished

Monica Engel, Social Action Member



Once again, our Giving Tree was surrounded by toys, games, dolls, and beautiful clothing donated by our generous congregants and friends. With the help of Mitch Cohen and his "at your service" truck, we delivered gifts to Orange County Rescue Mission on December 18th. We also received a very unexpected, magnanimous donation from a friend and TBS congregant who wishes to remain anonymous. With those funds, we were able to purchase a Ping-Pong table, a movie screen, and a barbecue, all of which can be enjoyed by the families and veterans residing at OCRM and the dedicated staff and volunteers who graciously keep everything running smoothly.

Calling All Cooks!

Steffanie Belasco, Social Action Member

What better way to spend meaningful time at home than to cook a nourishing meal for 20 lovely moms and moms-to-be at Casa Teresa?

Temple Beth Sholom is proud to offer this mitzvah opportunity the first Sunday of every month from January to June. We invite you to cook your family favorite or a new recipe you have been anxious to try. Food items will be available from Mary's Kitchen for **FREE** if you need. Call Gloria at (714) 633-0444 to reserve ingredients. Available supplies include beef, lamb, chicken or ground beef, fresh vegetables, potatoes, and fruit. Gloria will package items and have it waiting for you at Mary's Kitchen (517 W. Struck Ave., Orange). TBS also has pasta, rice, and other canned goods in the Mitzvah Meal pantry if you need. Of course, nourishing is the key word for these moms and their babies. The menu should consist of a minimum of ¼ pound of protein per person (20), a vegetable, a starch, and a fruit/dessert. Casa Teresa requests food be dropped off by 5:00 p.m. if it is ready to serve and by 4:00 p.m. if it needs to be reheated.

Please call Steffanie Belasco at (714) 420-5320 or Monica Engel (949) 458-8732 to sign up and for more information.

Adult Education

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

Windows in the Sanctuary - Looking Through the Windows of the Past and Future

Through the generosity of Linda and Dan Weissberg, Steve Klein and Richard Parrish were commissioned to create Jewish archeological images in the glass windows of the TBS sanctuary. Historic synagogues were chosen to trace the Diaspora from the destruction of the second temple in Jerusalem to the present in America. The journey goes from Galilee to Africa, to Europe and America. Each month, a short history of one synagogue will be highlighted in this newsletter with information on sources that can help you to connect virtually with that Temple.



This Month's Window: [The Old New Synagogue](#) (1270 CE) – Built in Prague, legend says that the foundation of stones was delivered by angels from the destroyed Temple in Jerusalem. The oldest remaining synagogue in Prague is home to many legends. Most known is the legend of the Golem, a creature fashioned out of mud. Go to Wikipedia to learn more about the historical survival of this Temple during WWII, and YouTube for a virtual tour.

Highlighting a Resource

[The Jewish Book Council](http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org) - info@jewishbooks.org

Founded in 1944, the Jewish Book Council is the longest running organization devoted exclusively to the support and celebration of Jewish literature. This organization gives you access to reviews, news, reading lists, book clubs, Jewish book awards and is linked to C’hai Flicks which streams Jewish and Israeli entertainment.

In Print - [The Ultimate Best Books of 2020 List](#) – Shared by Soni Sandberg

[The Vanishing Half](#) by Brit Bennett
[Leave the world Behind](#) by Rumaan Alam
[Transcendent Kingdom](#) by Yaa Gyasi
[Luster](#) by Raven Leilani
[Deacon King Kong](#) by James McBride
[Hamnet](#) by Maggie O’Farrell
[Caste: The Origins of our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson
[Memorial](#) by Bryan Washington
[Homeland Elegies](#) by Ayad Akhtar
[A Burning](#) by Megha Majumdar
[The Mirror and the Light](#) by Hilary Mantel
[Weather](#) by Jenny Offill
[The Office of Historical Corrections](#) by Danielle Evans
[Cleanness](#) by Garth Greenwell
[Shuggie Brain](#) by Douglass Stuart

Lunch & Learn Series: “Sexy Scriptures”- How the Bible Deals with Sex and Mixed Dancing

If our Hebrew Bible deals with real people in a real world, then it stands to reason that our familiar biblical personalities led real lives. Unlike the stories that you learned in Religious School, our scriptures contain many tales that are rated “R” — definitely not for children! In this four-session series we will take a look (sometimes blushing, sometimes laughing) at some of the more “interesting” texts from our biblical tradition. So, bring out your lunch, turn on the computer and enjoy some fun learning with Rabbi Donnell.

Session #2 January 20, 2021 (Noon)

That Ain’t No Lady, That’s My Sister! - Our patriarchs and matriarchs star in their own soap operas!

Session #3 February 17, 2021 (Noon)

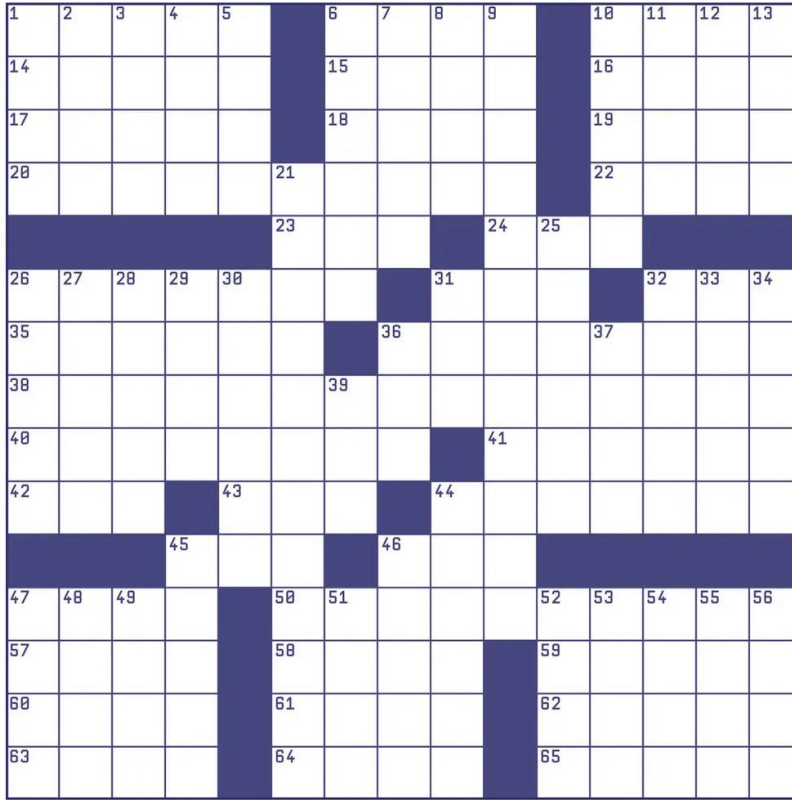
The Real Dope on Esther - This is not the PG version of the well-known Purim story!

Session #4 March 17, 2021 (Noon)

Samson and Delilah Get Kinky - Delilah did much more than give Samson a haircut! How much more????

Reminder: 92nd Street Y offers a huge variety of resources for a range of ages and many are free at <https://www.92y.org/>. Also, Orange County Community Scholar Program at <https://occsp.net/> has great monthly offerings. TBS is a member!

Enjoy



A HIRE PURPOSE

by PETER RUBIN

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLE
CAN BE FOUND AT:
WIRED.COM/puzzlesolution

ACROSS

- 1 Jewish human rights organization
B'nai _____
- 6 Child sitcom actor specialty
- 10 Hamilton didn't throw his away
- 14 The "A" in song format FLAC
- 15 Witch-hunting org. of the 1950s
- 16 Deli staple
- 17 Wintry mix
- 18 Goal of every internet search, for short
- 19 Browns or reds
- 20 Job recruiter, familiarly
- 22 Natural fragrance
- 23 Seminal '80s videogame console (abbr.)
- 24 Spot on a domino
- 26 Less-than-legal salespeople
- 31 It mythically turned Kennedy into a
jelly doughnut
- 32 Corporate-speak for "don't worry,
you'll find out" (abbr.)
- 35 What a thing should fit like
- 36 Causes of detours
- 38 Ridiculous excuse for why so many
47-Down (including 22-Across and
47-Across) kinda look 50-Across
- 40 You'll miss one if you leave at the credits
of a Marvel movie
- 41 Bro-ish in the worst way
- 42 The only Morse Code you know, probably
- 43 Ink, to its wearer
- 44 French car company that turned
100 this year

- 45 The Concorde was the last of this type of
plane to fly (abbr.)
- 46 _____ de deux
- 47 Prepare food
- 50 Regardless
- 57 Smart speaker (but not a thought leader!)
- 58 Match, in combat sports
- 59 It happens to anticipated videogames, like,
a lot
- 60 Pharcyde song "_____ Fish" ('90s hip hop
alert!)
- 61 Hired car
- 62 Computer science pioneer Hopper,
whose work led to modern programming
languages
- 63 Dirt, but *fancy* dirt
- 64 Acronymic gender identifier
- 65 Tried something gradually
(with "in")

DOWN

- 1 Quinceañera, say
- 2 Reign
- 3 Light bulb, in cartoons
- 4 Like the score before overtime
- 5 Where *The Empire Strikes Back* begins
- 6 Really excels
- 7 Moms' sisters
- 8 Secure
- 9 Aquatic creature that stings without
the stinger of its namesake
- 10 You can't send mail without one
- 11 The first streaming service to win an
Emmy for Outstanding Drama Series
- 12 Washingtons
- 13 Unit of measurement on a to-do list
- 21 "The _____ Experiment," as archaeology
is known
- 25 Place into, as a token in a game
- 26 Heads, especially bald ones
- 27 Disgusted response to a repulsive offer
- 28 Idita-rides?
- 29 Ingredients in beer—or good vertical
jumps
- 30 Ousts from one's property
- 31 *Book of _____*, 2010 postapocalyptic
action movie
- 32 "_____ Remember," song from *The
Fantasticks*
- 33 Davis whose eyes were immortalized
by Kim Carnes
- 34 The planet closest to the sun in Brandon
Sanderson's "Stormlight Archive" fantasy
series (I know, I know)
- 36 The NBA's Cavs, on a scoreboard
- 37 Major caliph in Islamic history
- 39 *Lord of the Rings* tree-being—
or 420-friendly Redditor
- 44 Stuffed mouse (or sock, or my hand)
- 45 The Juul of chewing tobacco
- 46 Measure something's depth
- 47 They're at the top of every org chart
(abbr.)
- 48 Prefix for "eight"
- 49 "I didn't see you there!"
- 51 Lean cut of pork
- 52 Border
- 53 "Will be" in Spanish, as the song may
have taught you
- 54 Old-fashioned lamentation
- 55 A pepper spray, or a peppery spice
- 56 Looked at, often suspiciously